

The Clickable Map Concept: Status of the Data Management Committee's Efforts to Provide Metadata Through a Geographic Information System

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The Maryland Water Monitoring Council's (MWMC) Data Management Committee (DMC) has developed a GIS Web interface (Figure 1) to display planned water quality monitoring activities in the State. Development of the map is a cooperative endeavor between the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), which maintains the map, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County, which hosts and updates the Web site (located at <http://cuereims.umbc.edu/MWMC>). The original purpose of the map was to provide academia, volunteer monitoring groups, and resource managers from all levels of government with the monitoring program metadata (e.g., station data, contact information) necessary to improve inter-program communication, coordination, partnering, and efficient use of aquatic monitoring resources in Maryland. Using information gathered from the MWMC's Monitoring and Assessment Committee's Stream Roundtable (Winter 2003), the DMC created an Internet Map Server (ArcIMS) to make this aquatic monitoring information readily available to any interested party having an Internet connection. The second stream monitoring roundtable will be held on February 20, 2004 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) at MDE in Baltimore.

Having accomplished this initial goal, the DMC is discussing ideas for enhancing the current mapping interface through providing more comprehensive monitoring program data, providing watershed status and trends, allowing a querying capability, adding more data layers, and providing extensive links to other related sites. The DMC is currently revising the data request for the 2004 Stream Roundtable in order to acquire additional information for the next map update. The DMC hopes to receive broad input and suggestions from the water monitoring community on ways to make the MWMC's ArcIMS system a more useful tool to water monitoring groups and organizations across the State.

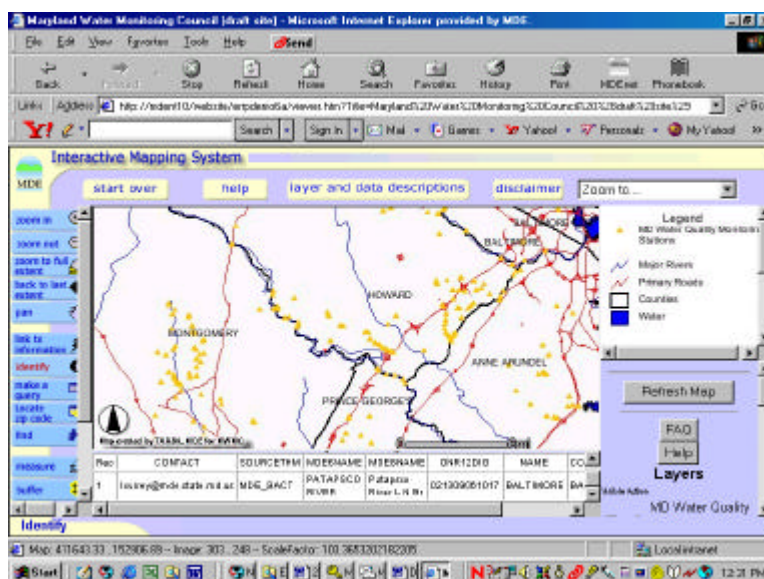


Figure 1: The MPMC's Internet Map Server